

District Water Management Plan 2003 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Water resource issues are major forces shaping the future of South Florida. The South Florida Water Management District's success in resolving complex water resource matters depends upon its ability to anticipate and plan for the future. In August 2000, the South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board approved the *District Water Management Plan*, which incorporated a comprehensive examination of water resource management in the 16-county South Florida region.

The policies, programs and activities of the South Florida Water Management District described in the *District Water Management Plan* reflected the multi-functional nature of water resource management in the region. The interrelated nature of areas of responsibility was considered in the development of the *District Water Management Plan*. The effects of activities identified under one area of responsibility on the other areas of responsibility continue to be considered in the implementation of the *District Water Management Plan*.

The *District Water Management Plan* was developed consistent with the requirements of Section 373.036, Florida Statutes and Section 62-40.520, Florida Administrative Code. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection in conjunction with the five water management districts developed additional criteria for the *District Water Management Plan*.

The *District Water Management Plan* provides comprehensive long-range guidance for the actions of the District in implementing its responsibilities under state and federal laws. The *District Water Management Plan* must be updated at least once every five years, and the South Florida Water Management District has committed to the development of the next comprehensive *District Water Management Plan* update in 2004.

Given the long-range nature of the *District Water Management Plan*, it is important to periodically evaluate the progress of the District toward accomplishing the goals established in the plan. The necessity for the regular review and evaluation of progress in achieving planning goals is explicitly recognized in the State Water Resource Implementation Rule, which requires regular review of the *District Water Management Plan*, pursuant to Chapter 62-40.520, Florida Administrative Code. The South Florida Water Management District is required to report annually to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding its progress in implementing this plan. The *District Water Management Plan* annual reports serve as status reports on the activities undertaken by the South Florida Water Management District, as well as on the performance measures contained within the *District Water Management Plan*, between updates of the plan.

In an effort to facilitate comparison of the plans of each of the water management districts, the *District Water Management Plan* was organized to reflect the four areas of responsibility of the water management districts: water supply, flood protection and floodplain management, water quality and natural systems. This common format is also used for the *District Water Management Plan* annual reports to help track the progress each district has made in implementing its respective district water management plans. This annual report covers progress made by the District during Fiscal Year 2003.